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Testimony before the Judiciary Committee on

Raised Bill No. 6659: An Act Concerning Civil Immigration Detainers

By Renee C. Redman, Esq.

March 22, 2013

Thank you members of the Judiciary Committee. I practice immigration law in New Haven where I represent immigrants who are in removal proceedings. I am also an Adjunct Professor at the Universities of Connecticut and Quinnipiac Schools of Law where I teach immigration law, a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, and a former legal director of the ACLU of Connecticut. This testimony is only on my behalf – I do not speak for any organization.

I respectfully request the Judiciary Committee to favorably report Raised Bill No. 6659.

The Connecticut Department of Corrections no longer detains immigrants who are not convicted of crimes, regardless of whether U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has placed a detainer on the person. However, sadly, once such immigrants are released into the custody of the state marshals, the marshals have been transferring the immigrants to ICE custody, which places them in removal proceedings, often for the sole reason that they crossed the border without permission years ago. The marshals have transferred people who have no criminal record. This bill will codify the state's position that law enforcement personnel – including the state marshals – will not transfer such immigrants to the custody of ICE, regardless of whether ICE has placed a detainer.